

REMARKS

Claim 1-2 and 8-16 are pending, claims 3-7 having been withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and new claims 12-16 added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-2 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Yokosawa (USP 6,001,479) in view of Ootake (USP 5,958,542 and rejects claims 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Yokosawa in view of Ootake and further in view of Hosoe (USP 5,759,681). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Yokosawa teaches that the perfluoropolyether containing lubricant having piperonyl groups as terminal groups as indicated in Table 2A is not a type of lubricant that chemically adsorbs functional groups, such as carboxyl group or hydroxyl group, on the carbon surface, but another type of lubricant whose piperonyl groups similar to benzene rings are physically absorbed onto the carbon surface. See column 10, lines 7-13. As indicated in the Office Action, adsorbed mechanism of lubricant (by groups similar to benzene rings) in Yokosawa is apparently different from the adsorbed mechanism of lubricant. In Yokosawa it is apparently different from the adsorbed mechanism of lubricant (by groups of -COOH, -C=O, -COH, -CNH₂ in this invention. Therefore, Yokosawa teaches away from the claimed invention, and a person having ordinary skill in the art would not make the combination suggested by the Office Action.

Further, Ootake does not describe the improvement of adsorption of lubricant by functional group as indicated in the claimed invention.

Hosoe et al. teaches a well-known magnetic recording system as indicated by the Examiner. However, there is no description of the improvement of adsorption of lubricant by functional group in the magnetic recording system of Hosoe. Thus, even if all references are combined, a person of ordinary skill in the art would not obtain the claimed invention even if modifying Yokosawa with Ootake and Hosoe as suggested in the Office Action.

Further, claims 1 and 2 have been amended in order to clarify the further feature of the claimed invention. These features are not shown in the cited reference. New claims 12-16 also show these new features and Applicants believe these new claims are allowable.

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The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 as being duplicates of claims 1 and 2. This rejection is moot since claims 9 and 10 have been canceled.

For at least the above reasons, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and allowance are solicited.

The Office is authorized to charge any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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